A SHORT AND TRVE RELATION

OF

The life and death of Sir *Thomas Wentworth* Knight, Earle of *Strafford*, Viscount *wentworth*, Baron *Wentworth* of *Wentworth Wood-house*, *New-march*, *Oversley* and *Raby*, Lord Lieutenant Generall, and Generall Governour of the Kingdome of *Ireland*, Lord President of the Counsell established in the North parts of *England*, Lord Lieutenant of the County and City of Yorke, and one of his Majesties most Honorable Privy Councell, and Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter.

Who was beheaded on Tower-hill, the 12. of May, 1641.

With certaine Caveats to all men, of what degree soever, to take warning by his fall.

Lege, sic discas.

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A

Short and true Relation, of the life and death of the Earle of *Strafford*.

THe newes which now I ſhall divulge, hath (I know) beene long lookt for, (and at length is come to paſſe) elſe what was the meaning of that late out-cry by the Commons, to both Houſes of Parliament for juſtice? Is any man ſorry for the death of the Earle of *Strafford*? I am ſure Tradeſ-men have but little reaſon for it. Their trading was ſo good all the time of his tryall, which was long and mercifull: But before I come to treat of his death, give me leave to ſpeake a little of his life.

What his Parentage was, how borne, and where, it is not my purpoſe to trouble my ſelfe with, there be many in *London* which can relate that more true than my ſelfe; It is my intent to be briefe, wherefore I will beginne with him riſing.

In the time of King *Iames*, of bleſſed memory, who was more againſt that which he followed of late, than himſelfe? no man living then, could more condemne and abhorre that way of living, than himſelfe: but as he grew greater in honour, ſo he grew leſſe in grace.

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Whereas humility and equity he first affected, rising by preferment, he tooke upon him injustice and Pride, of which vice give me leave to treat a little, concerning which I cannot begin to speake without expressions fill'd with exclamations.

O how many thousands have fallen by this notorious vice of Pride! by it the divell himselfe fell, and by this did our fore-father *Adam* fall: were it not for this vice of Pride, O how peaceably might we all live!

If there were no Pride, therewould be no rebellion; if no rebellion, nowar; if no war, it must needs be granted that there would be nothing else but peace. How many slaine bodies, and perhaps souls too, hath this one vice of Pride beene guilty of! as for example, read the Story of *Cæsar* and *Pompey*, whose Prides were of so high a nature, that the one could not endure to heare of an equall, the other a Superiour: the Pride of which two bred a most bloudy civill war, throughout the whole world.

Read also the Story of *Marcus Antonius*, his Pride which had the whole Roman Empire under his subjection, except one *Augustus* which was in power and authority equall with him: And this mans Pride stir'd him againe, that he might raigne alone.

But to the purpose, which is concerning the Lord *Wentworth*, and his Treachery: This Volume cannot containe the grievances, which by him have beene planted in *England*, Scotland, and *Ireland*: read but the Articles of which he was accused, and then judge the man by his workes.

The

The name of a Traytor he disdained, but to use equity it went against his conscience. That he had wisdom tis true, but he abus'd it, that is most certaine. What could a man have desired more then was granted to him? did he desire honour? he had it, as may appeare by his rising.

First it was but Mr. then Sr. *Thomas Wentworth*, then L. *Wentworth*, then Earle of *Strafford*, L. Lieutenant of *Ireland*, beside other Titles which his Royall Soveraigne conferred upon him, but yet with all this was he not contented, but still sought after more.

Was it for want of wisedome he thus craved? surely no, for as I said before, wisedom hee had, but it was overshadowed with a maske of impudence, as by a worthy Patrone of piety, he was told in the High Court of Parliament.

Sophister-like for a long time, with his fallacies did he hold dispute against the whole Kingdome, but the most learned and wise House of Parliament, like true disputants at length dissolved them, and not long after made a dissolution of his head, and *Englands* grievances.

Did he die undeservedly? who dares say so? nay who can say it? surely they are not *England* or *Ireland*, which can witnesse that (not long since) famous place of *London-Derry* in *Ireland*, belonging once unto the Citizens of *London*, which had, and hath so great plenty of wood, wher-with Spanish Pikes are made, wi hall, the Inhabitants whereof furnished our Kings Dominions sufficiently for their owne occasions, and then (because it was the commodity which they could best trafficke with, they sent some over the Seas to *Holland*, Netherlands, or the like places; for which this man by a project he had made, *London* paying a great summe of money, lost its priviledge of the place, the chiefe Inhabitants left it, and the place now lookes more like a desolate wildernesse then a place of renowne, as before it was;

his brethren projectors, perhaps may argue this for a deed of charity, but there is no true Christian but that may lawfully deny their hardest proposition. I will adde one or two more of his charitable deeds, and then let the whole world judge, whether this man was not worthy of death.

That he deserved death long since for his politick treachery he wrought against the English scarce any are ignorant, wherefore I will passe that over, and show some tragicall stories by him acted and his complices in *Ireland*, as for example sir *Richard Bolton* Knight, Lord Chancellour of *Ireland*, *John* Lord Bishop of *Derry*, Sir *Gerard Lowther* Knight, Lord Chiefe Justice of the common Pleas, and sir *George Radcliffe* Knight, intending the destruction of the Common-wealth of *Ireland*, trayterously confederated and conspired together, to subvert the fundamentall Laws of that Kingdome, and in pursuance thereof they traiterously contrived an arbitrary and tyrannicall government against Law thorowout the Kingdome, being countenanced and assisted by *Thomas* Earle of *Strafford*, he being then chiefe Governour of that Kingdome.

As appeared by the Articles against the afore-named person in the Parliament assembled in *Ireland*.

What harme could such weake members have done, had they had no staffe to uphold them? in plaine tearms, one may lawfully say, they were brought up like so many young Spannels, to fetch & carry what their Master pleased; I have my selfe knowne Dawes to follow their Masters whithersoever they went, and why may not Rookes which participate of their nature doe the same.

When the head hath an ache, the rest of the body is ill at ease: so when the Governour is tainted, his Counsell must needs stinke: but I proceed.

After he had prosecuted his intent concerning the subversion of fundamentall Lawes, the better to preserve him

him and his forenamed traiterous confederates, he laboured to subvert the rights of Parliament, and the antient course of Parliamentary proceedings, lest his confederates being questioned in *Ireland*, he himselfe should bee convicted in *England* as hee now is: full well he knew the afflictions which *Ireland* had endured, as the generall and apparent decay of Trades, occasioned by the new and illegall raising of the booke of Rates and Impositions, as 12 pence a piece custome for Hides, bought for 3, 4, or 5 shillings, and many other heavy impositions upon native and other commodities exported, by the reason whereof Merchants are beggered, being disenabled and discouraged to trade; and some of the honorable persons as who gained thereby, were often judg'd and parties, but the Kings Majesties profit thereby was not considerably advanced: so as his treasury was full, he cared not how empty the Kings was, as appeared by the Proclamation for the sole exemption of uttering Tobacco, which was bought at low rates, & uttered at very high and excessive rates, by means thereof thousands of families within the Kingdom of *Ireland*, & of his Majesties subjects in severall Ilands & other parts of the Westindies were destroyed, and the most part of the coyn of that Kingdome ingrossed into particular hands, insomuch as it was probably affirmed, the profit arising and engrossed thereby, did surmount his Majesties revenewes certaine and casuall within that Kingdome, and yet his Majesty received very little profit by the same.

Crassus the Roman, was accounted the richest man living in his time; but had not this man bin cut off, *Crassus* might have bin accounted a begger in comparison of him, his thousands yearely so encreased.

What a rare and gainefull plot was that of him, to cause a Proclamation in *Ireland* in the yeare of our Lord, 1635, prohibiting men of qualtity and estate, for to depart that Kingdome into *England* without his licence, whereby the Subjects of *Ireland* were hindred and interrupted, from having

ving redresse and accesse to his Majesty and Privy Councell of England to declare their just grievances, or to obtain just remedy for them, (in their sort as their Ancestors did in all ages, since the reigne of King Henry the second) great fees being exacted for every of the said Licenses.

Should I goe about to relate all the grievances which poore *Ireland*, of late indured? what flinty heart is there, which would not ready be, to breake? what eyes could so harren be of teares, as would not gush out fountaines? how they suffered in their goods, having them forcibly snatched away.

I say, should I nominate how many thousand of his Majesties liege people of that Kingdome, have beene ruined in their lands, Liberties, and lives; and many of them being of good quality, and reputation, have beene utterly defamed, by Pillory, Mutilation of Members, and many other infamous punishments, all would thinke it an incredible thing, that such plots and cruelty could be harboured in the heart of any mortall man, the actions being so Diabolicall.

As I did promise at the first to be briefe, so I doe intend, I will only give all exhortations to shun his like, least hereafter they participate of his death, who is now beheaded.

Art thou high, or low? rich, or poore? Noble, or Ignoble? still let thy eye be upon equity, regard not these worldly vanities, more than thy soule and bodies safety, bee still content with that thou hast; for things ill gotten never prosper. Let Lord *Wentworth* be an example to all; let his death cause us to have a care how we live: which that it may, God of his mercy grant,

So bee it.

FINIS.